MANITOBA

FIREARM INCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
2001

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Conservation
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation

102-04553/

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

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Prepared by
Luke Peloquin and Helen Moler
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional incident report forms please write to the Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt (4868) or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 2001 there were 6 firearm related incidents. In 1999 there were 15 and in 2000 there were 3. Two of the 6 incidents in 2001 were self-inflicted. There were 3 hunting related fatalities. One of the incidents involved a shooter under 18 years of age, compared to one in 2000 and 9 in 1999.

Five of the 6 incidents were related to hunting. Two occurred during a licenced hunting season, resulting in 1 fatality.

Of the 6 reported incidents, 3 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, one at a distance of 10-50 yards, one over 100 yards and one at an unknown distance. One of the 6 incidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program, from another jurisdiction and one incident involved a minor who is a graduate of the Canadian Firearms Safety Course.

The Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course was completed by 1,976 students in 2001, while 2,079 completed the course in 2000. 136,061 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total 162 have later become involved in a firearm incident which represents .0012%. In 2001, 4 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 254 active instructors.

In 1998 the Manitoba Conservation entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF.

CAUSE OF INCIDENTS

	2000	2001
Victim out of sight of shooter	2	0
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	0	3
Shooter stumbled and fell	1	0
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	0	1
Firearm fell from insecure rest	0	0
Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	0	1
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	0	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	0	0
Accidental discharge	0	1
Richochet	0	0
Other	0	0

* Indicates fatal incident

Total	**3**	**6**

Average firearm incidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0
1999	15.0
2000	3.0
2001	6.0

SYNPOSIS OF 2000 AND 2001 FIREARM INCIDENTS

		2000	2001
A.	**Total Number of Incidents**	**3**	**6**
	Fatal	0	3
	Non-fatal	3	3
B.	**1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season**	**1**	**2**
	Fatal	0	1
	Non-fatal	1	1
	2) Treaty Indian Hunting	**1**	**4**
	Fatal	0	2
	Non-fatal	1	2
	3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	**1**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	0
	4) Non-hunting Incidents	**0**	**0**
	Fatal in the home	0	0
	Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Fatal outside home	0	0
	Non-fatal in the home	0	0
	Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Non-fatal outside the home	0	0
C.	**Shooter Unknown**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
D.	**Incidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age**	**1**	**1**
	All Types of Hunting	1	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	1
	Non-hunting	0	0
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

		2000	2001
A.	**.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle**	**1**	**1**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	1	1
B.	**Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle**	**0**	**3**
	Fatal	0	3
	Non-fatal	0	0
C.	**Shotgun**	**2**	**2**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	2	2
D.	**Hand Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
E.	**Pellet Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
F.	**Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
Total		**3**	**6**

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	2000	2001
0 to 10 yards	1	3
10 to 50 yards	2	0
50 to 100 yards	0	1
over 100 yards	0	1
Distance Unknown	0	1

OCCURENCES

Time of Day	2000	2001
Midnight – 3:00 a.m.	0	1(1)*
3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	0	1
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	0	0
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	1	0
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	1	2(2)*
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	1	2
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	1	2
Monday	1	0
Tuesday	1	2(2)*
Wednesday	0	0
Thursday	0	2(1)*
Friday	0	0
Saturday	0	0
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	1	0
May	0	0
June	0	0
July	1	0
August	0	0
September	0	1(1)*
October	1	2
November	0	2(1)*
December	0	1(1)*

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENCES SOLD

	GAME BIRDS	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
2000	19,584	61,318	80,902
2001	18,266	64,098	82,364

* Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS
LICENSED HUNTING INCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING INCIDENTS
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
2000	80,902	3	1
2001	82,364	6	2

SUMMARY OF 2001 INCIDENTS

Proper firearm handling is the most important element of hunter safety. Careless handling of firearms can cause death or injury to hunters or their companions before they see their target or even reach the bush. Ten basic rules must be followed whenever a firearm is handled or used. The first four rules apply whether you are in a home or building (such as a gun store), in a vehicle, at a shooting range or while hunting. The ten basic rules are:

GENERAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE OF A FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.**
2. **OPEN THE ACTION OF A FIREARM AS SOON AS YOU PICK IT UP FOR ANY REASON.**
3. **LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO ENSURE THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED AFTER OPENING THE ACTION.**
4. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.**
5. **BE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION . THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE LOADING AND PERIODICALLY DURING MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD.**
6. **CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING.**
7. **USE THE SAFETY BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.**
8. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**
9. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
10. **TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.**

SUMMARY OF 2001 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
Septmeber 18 1:00 am	S - 47 V - Unknown	Yes	Rifle	60 yards	Moose	No	Two hunting parties hunting moose at night in dense fog. Victim was mistaken for game and was struck in the head.
October 4 8: 00 pm	S - 60 Self-inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Geese	Yes	Accidentally discharged shotgun into left foot while hunting geese.
October 7 7:30 pm	S - 15 V – 18	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Grouse	No Graduate of CFSC	While hunting shooter discharged shotgun at a hubcap and struck victim in right knee.

S – Shooter
V - Victim

SUMMARY OF 2001 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
Nov. 15 5:05 pm	S - 54 V - 44	Yes	30.06 rifle	100 yards or more	Deer	No	Victim was riding on ATV in a field and was only partially visible. Victim was wearing blaze orange vest and gray cap. Shooter mistook victim for deer. Victim was struck in the head.
Nov. 25 6:00 pm	S - 31 Self-inflicted	No	.22 cal. rifle	0 - 10 yds	Rabbits	No	Removing a loaded firearm from a vehicle to go hunting rabbits, struck in chest..
Dec. 11 5:15 pm	S - Unknown V – 30	Yes	22-250 Rifle	Unknown	Moose	No	Victim was setting snares and was mistaken by shooter to be a moose. Struck in leg and died enroute to hospital.

S – Shooter
V - Victim